



APHIS

Plant Protection and Quarantine

# Pest Detection and Management Programs

Weekly Notice, September 1, 2003

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

## Domestic Programs

Noxious Weeds - Cooperators are continuing to complete work plans and cooperative agreements for FY 2003 earmarks - Cogongrass with MSU in Mississippi, Hydrilla with VPI in Virginia and Texas Parks & Wildlife in the Rio Grande in Texas and Japanese Knotweed/Giant Hogweed with the Kiski Project in Pennsylvania.

Art Miller distributed a list of several upcoming weed science society meetings and invasive species conferences.

Tropical Soda Apple - A new FY 2003 cooperative agreement is in place for Tropical Soda Apple (TSA) survey in the northern tier counties in Florida starting in September. The cooperative agreements for TSA educational outreach by the University of Florida IFAS and TSA survey and control by Mississippi State University are being renewed for FY 2003.

Contact: Al Tasker (301) 734-5708

[Alan.V.Tasker@usda.gov](mailto:Alan.V.Tasker@usda.gov)

Sudden oak death - Effective Monday, August 18, 2003, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) put into effect within the State of Oregon a requirement that all importers (commercial and noncommercial) report any nursery stock importations within two days to ODA. Should ODA determine that such importations from any out-of-state source warrants examination by ODA, they will notify the importer within 24 hours and require that shipment be held pending inspection. ODA deems this action necessary due to several detection of *P. ramorum* in Oregon nurseries this year that were likely to have originated from sources other than Oregon. This measure is temporary (subject to renewal) and will expire in 6 months.

Contact: Jonathan Jones (301) 734-8247

[Jonathan.M.Jones@usda.gov](mailto:Jonathan.M.Jones@usda.gov)

Environmental Monitoring - Consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife Service is being conducted in conjunction with a species (Chiricahua Leopard Frog) in New Mexico that has recently been listed. Species habitat and possible protection measures are being determined so that neither the frog nor ongoing treatments of cotton as part of the Boll Weevil Eradication Program in NM will be impacted.

Contact: Susan Bright (301) 734-5700

[Susan.A.Bright@usda.gov](mailto:Susan.A.Bright@usda.gov)

## Emergency Programs

Asian longhorned beetle - The Illinois ALB Management Board met on August 21, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois for a program planning session. Discussions included program accomplishments to date, strategies for regulatory, chemical treatments, and surveys in 2004, and new technologies for program enhancement. Participants of the meeting were Scott Frank and Warren Goetsch from the IL Department of Agriculture, Joe McCarthy from City of Chicago Forestry, Mike Stefan, Ken Kruse, Joe Schafer, Chris Caris and Christine Markham from APHIS PPQ, and Vic Mastro from APHIS PPQ CPHST.

A group of infested trees, 35 plus, were detected in Mt. Olivet cemetery in Western Queens New York. It was reported to the program by a grounds keeper of the cemetery. Program personnel are conducting extensive surveys immediately surrounding the infestation. Many of the trees are covered with numerous egg sites as well as exit holes. These trees are located within the 1/2 mile core of the infestation in Queens. Chemical treatments were not applied in previous years since this location is beyond the 1/4 mile treatment radius. Scientists from Otis Plant Methods Center are gathering information on population densities and aging, and host susceptibility. The infested trees are primarily maples plus a few horse chestnuts. Due to the level of attack, this infestation has been there a number of years. It was last surveyed in May 2002 by contract personnel.

Contact: Mike Stefan (301) 734-7338

[Michael.B.Stefan@usda.gov](mailto:Michael.B.Stefan@usda.gov)



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Emerald ash borer - The Maryland Department of Agriculture has confirmed a detection of *Agrilus planipennis* (Emerald Ash Borer) on ash tree nursery stock in southern Prince George's County.

The Maryland Department of Agriculture has issued a condemnation and seizure order for this lot of ash nursery stock and is in the process of destroying this shipment. They have also placed a stop sale notice on all other host plants in the nursery. It is anticipated that survey in the surrounding area will begin next week.

APHIS' Investigative and Enforcement Services (IES) has been engaged to determine the origin of the trees and where other portions of the shipment may have been distributed.

They will be working with state officials to conduct a trace-back investigation. More information will be distributed as it becomes available.

Contact: Deborah McPartlan (301) 734-5356

[Deborah.L.McPartlan@usda.gov](mailto:Deborah.L.McPartlan@usda.gov)